



Soco Transmission &lt;socotransmission@gmail.com&gt;

## New Comment Submission

EDAW Engage &lt;info@engage.edaw.com&gt;

Fri, Sep 11, 2009 at 8:41 AM

To: info@socotransmission.com, dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov, douglas.johnston@aecom.com

A new comment has been submitted at [socotransmission.com](http://socotransmission.com).

### COMMENT

#### Meeting Attended:

Gardner Scoping Meeting

#### Important Issues:

Land Use (Agriculture, Residential, Recreation), Health and Safety, Project Purpose and Need, Biological Resources, Visual / Aesthetic Resources, Proximity to Residences

#### Property Uses:

Agriculture, Residential

#### Comment:

What is an environmental crime? It is easy in many cases to see the damage and know that punishment is justified. Certainly when we think of Saddam Hussein burning the oil fields of Kuwait the death penalty doesn't seem unfair. When we think of outlaw lumber operations clear cutting protected habitat in the worlds most critical rain forests we can easily call for punishment. Wanton killing of endangered species deserves prison; farms and factories spewing toxic wastes should be fined or closed; but what about the cultural environment, the esthetic environment? When the Spanish destroyed the Mayan codex, was that environmental crime? When the Taliban blew up the Giant Buddhas in Afghanistan was that environmental murder?

What about the desecration of unspoiled beauty; the destruction of some of the most magnificent panoramas in North America? In 1979 the Huerfano County Planning Commission and the County Commissioners created the first County Master Plan. One of the key purposes was to preserve the great natural assets that we have. In order to protect that beauty a scenic corridor was created the along Highway 160 from the top of La Veta pass to the town of La Veta; no billboards, no motels, no power lines. We recognized that what Southern Colorado offered was a respite from the constant barrage of concrete and steel, noise and confusion that is the world that most Americans experience every day. I believe that erecting huge metal transmission towers over La Veta Pass, destroying, to both the East and West, some of the most spectacular natural scenery in America is also a crime; and it is a senseless and unnecessary act. No one has been able to give me one good reason why, when we already have two existing North/South corridors (Poncha Pass and I-25) to carry the "projected" wind and solar energy to Denver and the Front Range, we have to have these power lines at all.

As citizens of rural America we are fully aware of our leadership position in developing renewable energy. We have the sunlight, wind, the thermal energy and the hydrocarbons and, most critically, we have the open spaces. We will willingly provide this energy to the rest of the country, but we don't want their energy independence to come at the expense of our health and safety, the quality of our air and our water and our quality of life. And yes, we want society to recognize the monetary value of environmental intangibles such as these spectacular vistas that are our greatest community asset.

The cost of these power lines is too great. Tell Tri-State and Excel to build the lines in the existing

I-166-001

I-166-002

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg...> 9/14/2009

### I-166-001: Purpose and Need (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Project purpose and need will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### I-166-002: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

corridors. Change the rules if necessary; site our alternative energy generation facilities and transmission lines where they don't destroy the natural beauty of Huerfano, Alamosa and Costilla Counties for the sake of electricity that doesn't even exist.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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